



Biometric Identification: Metrics & Models

Brian Martin
March 2010

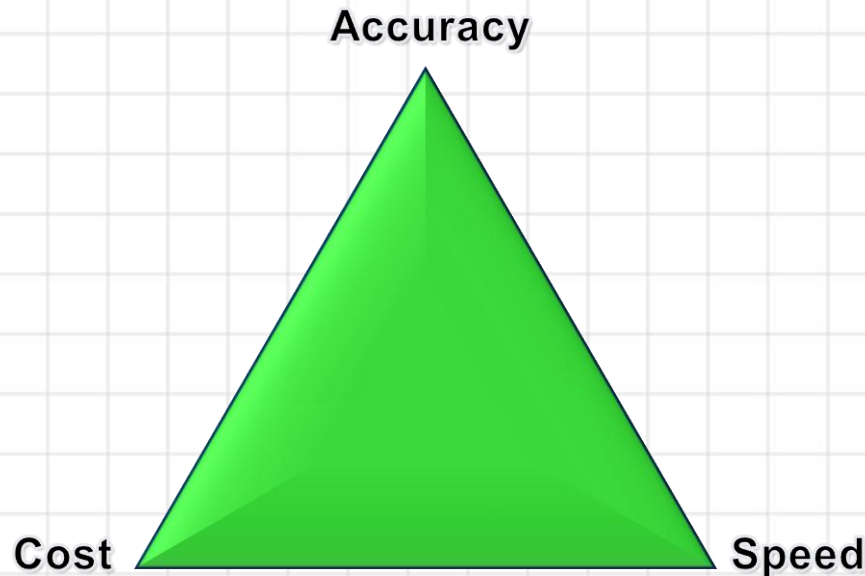
Overview

- **Back of envelope approach to biometric ID systems – and in particular the Search Engine Backend:**
 - What are (some of) the relevant metrics?
 - Can we use what we measure to model performance? How?
- **If interested in a more precise examination of the topic (free dl):**
 - “National Biometric Test Center Collected Works 1997-2000”
Dated, but still many relevant points for 1:N search systems
 - Wayman, 2000
 - <http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/biometrics/publications.html>
 - “Matching Performance for the US-VISIT IDENT System Using Flat Fingerprints (NIST IR-7110)”
One of few published results on large scale testing
 - Wilson, Garris, & Watson, 2004
 - ftp://sequoyah.nist.gov/pub/nist_internal_reports/ir_7110.pdf

Metrics

Biometric Search Engine Metrics

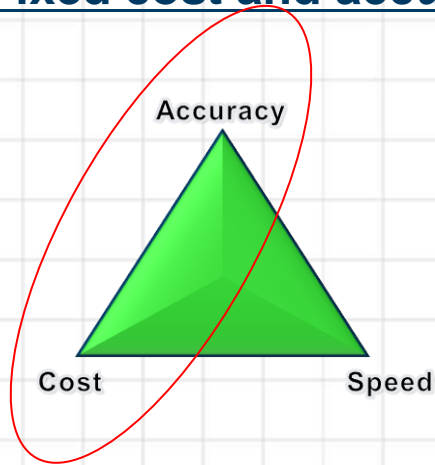
- There is an analogy between biometric ID search engine trade-offs and the project management triangle:
“Good, Fast, Cheap... Pick any two”



- There are arguably several other dimensions... these seem to capture the general concepts of most
- All axes are interrelated...

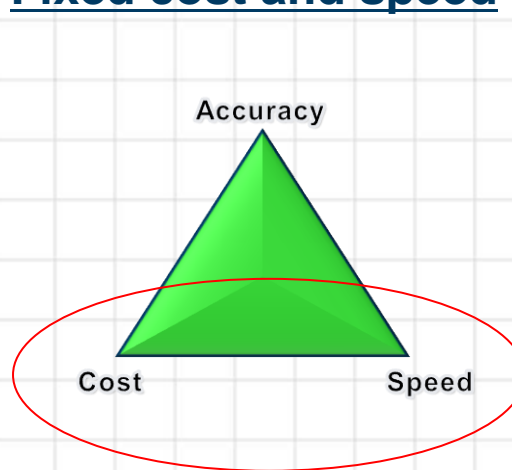
Biometric Search Engine Metrics

Fixed cost and accuracy



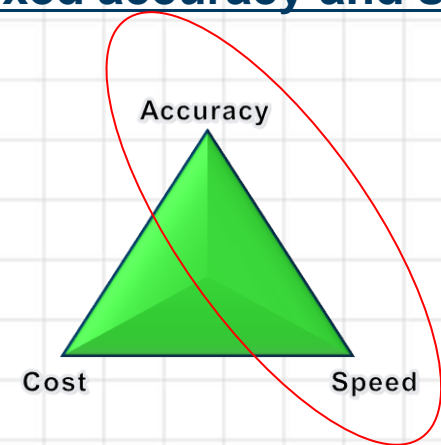
- Hardware constrained solution such as access control.
- Speed varies with users, database size, etc...

Fixed cost and speed



- Accuracy is determined by investment cost and time
- Perhaps MBGC is an example. Cost and speed are determined by participant.

Fixed accuracy and speed



- RFP sets requirements for speed and accuracy
- Cost is the dependent variable

Biometric Search Engine Tests

- **There are many types of biometric system performance tests. Some of the most common:**
 1. **Document and explore current state of the art**
 - Only test accuracy (“MBGC”, PFT, etc...)
 - Sometimes accuracy and speed (IREX, ELFT, FVC)
 - Helps answer, “Theoretically, can biometrics provide a solution to a particular problem?”
 2. **Validate existing system performance**
 - Accuracy, speed and cost are considered
 3. **Collect data that suggests future system performance (procurements)**
 - Will a system meet requirements at a smaller scale?
 - How much will the final, larger, system cost?
 - **Accuracy, speed, cost, and a model for scaling**

Metrics: Time

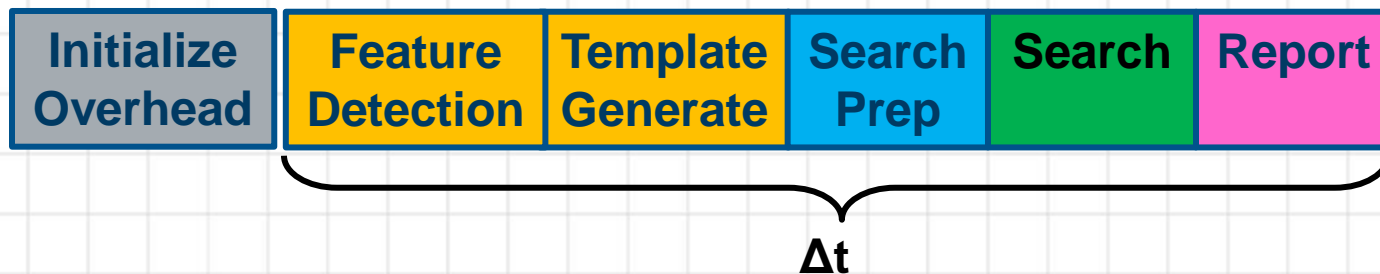
Metric: Time

- **Processing time (enroll and match) depends on**
 - Data quality characteristics
 - Imposter / Genuine (strength of match)
 - Database size
 - HW dependencies
 - CPU bound
 - Memory bound
 - Instruction set support (SSE, NUMA, etc...)
 - Scaling approach (multi-core, system architecture, etc...)

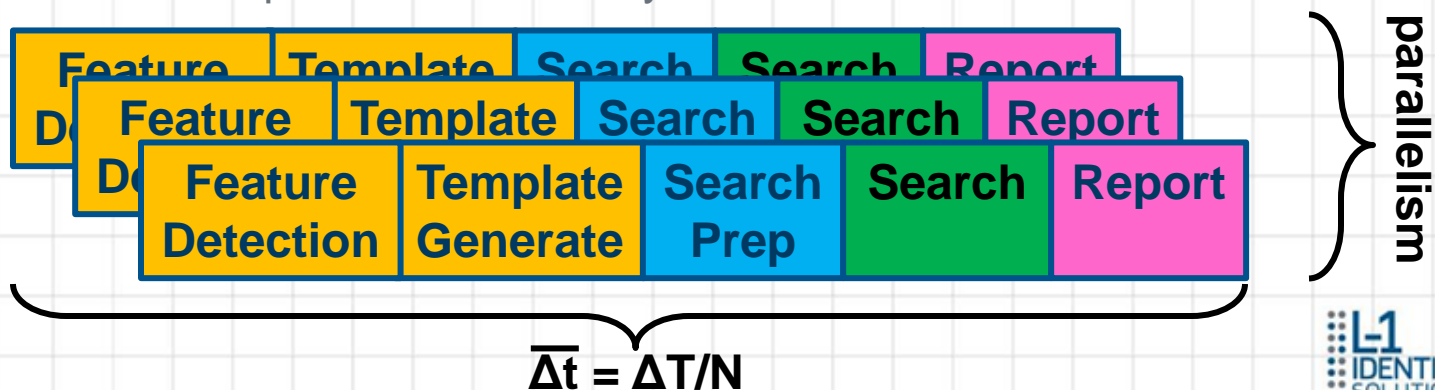
Metric: Time

- Two basic flavors of the time metric:

- **Latency** – how long
 - Real time metric



- **Throughput** – how much (average rate)
 - Batch processing
 - Easier to optimize than latency



Metric: Time

- **Measure**
 - Latency and throughput
- **Should document**
 - Database size
 - Data quality aspects
 - Imposter / Genuine distribution
 - Hardware description
 - One-time overhead, measures at different gallery sizes
 - Architecture (multi-core, multi-server) overhead

Metrics: Accuracy

Metric: Accuracy

- **Accuracy depends on**
 - **Algorithmic sophistication**
 - Feature detection
 - Feature matching
 - **Biometric sample quality**
- **Most independent tests do an excellent job measuring accuracy on specific database samples**
 - **Most tests become dated quickly**

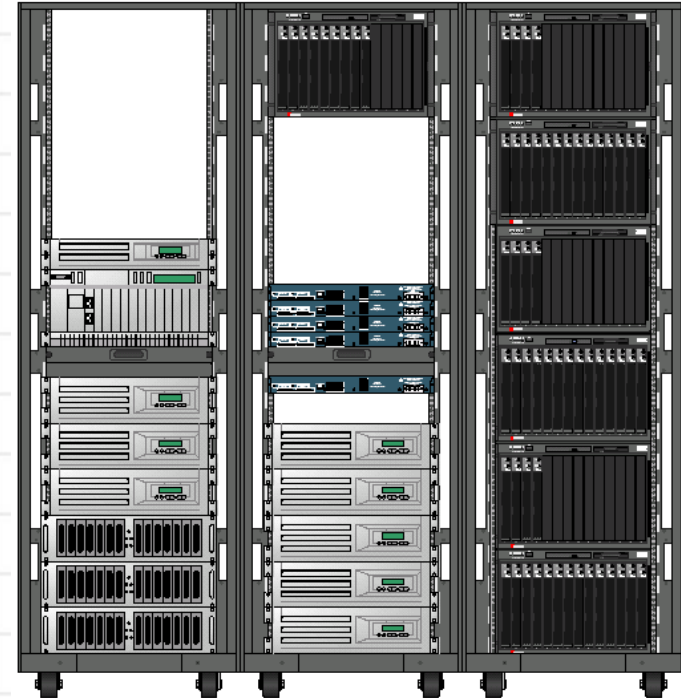
Metric: Accuracy

- **Measure for 1:1**
 - Tradeoff between FMR and FNMR (aka FAR and FRR)
 - ROC or DET curve
 - FTE
 - Examples: IREX, MINEX, PFT, FVC
- **Measure for 1:N**
 - Tradeoff between FPIR and FNIR (aka FAR and FRR, FMR and FNMR, Selectivity, 'Alarm' rates)
 - Use open set
 - Measures depends on result list size. Here we assume list size of 1.
 - Names of the metrics seem to drift from document to document – why?
 - $FNIR \sim FNMR_{1:1}$
 - $FPIR \sim FMR_{1:1} \times N_{DB}$
 - FTE
 - CMC (hit rate) useful when every search is reviewed by human (latent)
 - Examples: (FpVTE, FRVT, ICE), ELFT
- **Also should document the FTA rate if possible**

Metrics: Cost

Metric: Cost

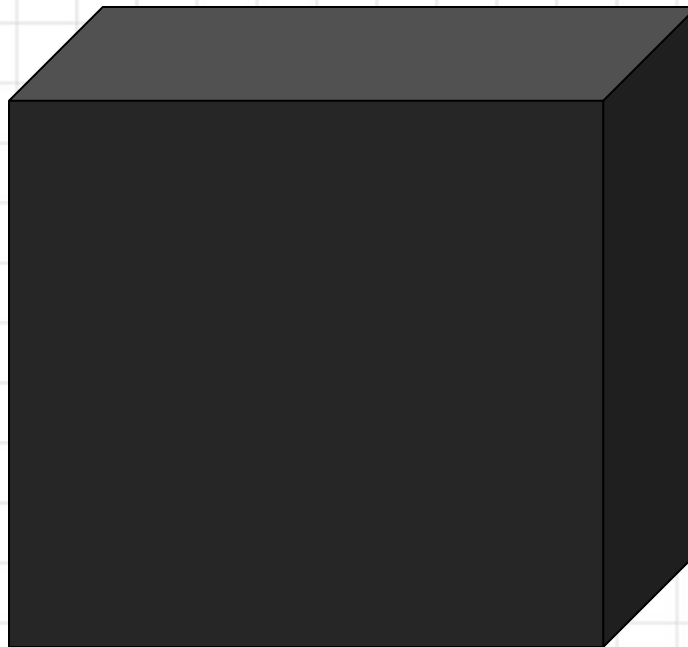
- **The cost metric is a direct reflection of**
 - **Hardware required for the solution = system footprint**
 - Depends on computational efficiency (speed, size)
 - Engineering sophistication of matcher
 - System architecture
 - **Maintainability (Power, Cooling, Support, etc...)**
 - **Human review workload (accuracy dependent)**
- **Cost usually not an independent variable in testing.**
- **Cost can be reasonably estimated if the system architecture and other metrics are understood**
 - Modeling cost can be non-linear with project scale (both ways!)



ID System Modeling

ID System Models

- **Given test results, how do we use measurements?**
 - Model accuracy, speed, and cost for some other system
- **Can we keep things simple?**



ID System Models – one problem

- **Real world ‘black-box’**
 - Meets the requirements
 - Larger databases
 - Minimize cost = efficient



- **Lab test ‘black-box’**
 - Configured for best accuracy
 - Smaller databases
 - Maximize cost/time to limits



ID System Models

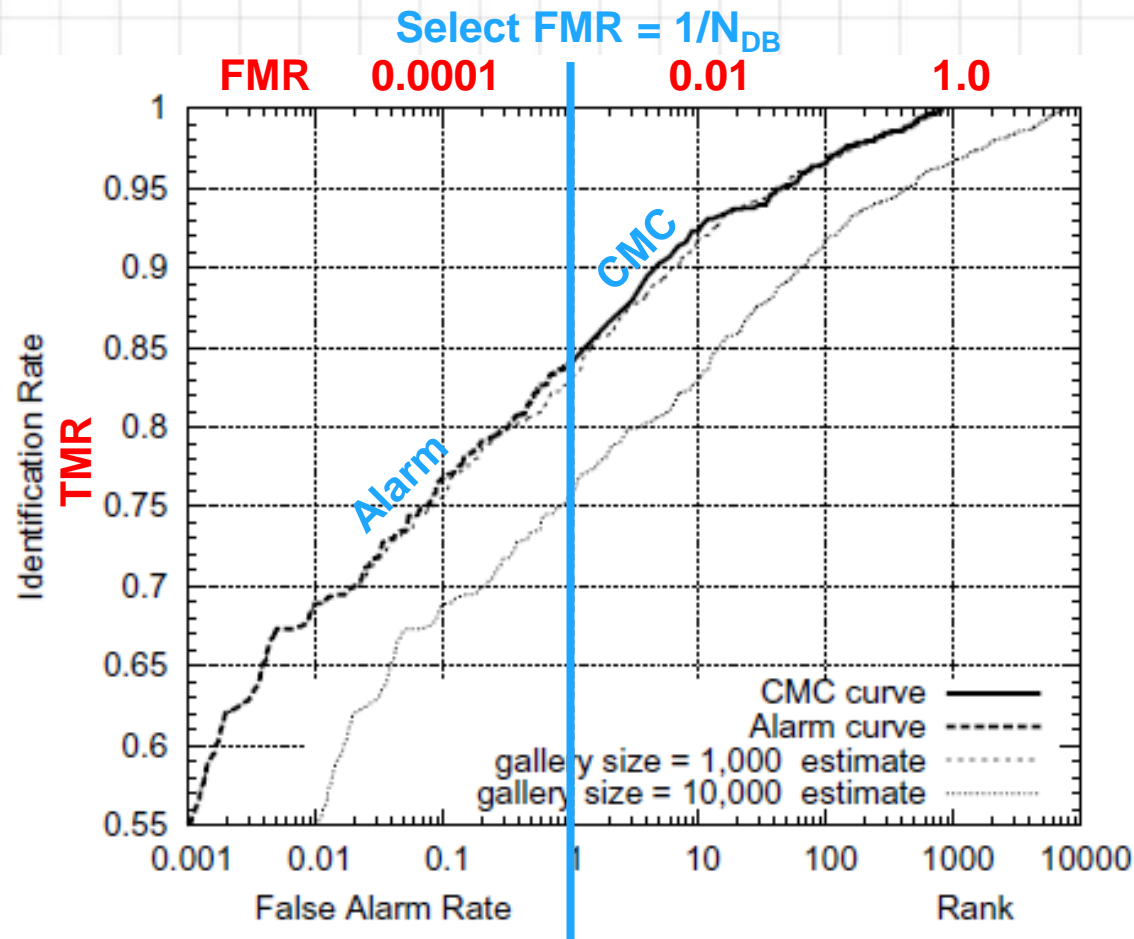
- **Lab testing can be useful, but the difference between the black-box in the lab and the black-box AFIS search engine must be acknowledged**
 - Measuring more than accuracy helps bring this to light
- **Now, lets look at a couple models for biometric search engines and examine how we can use test results**

Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1)

- **The most common assumption for biometric identification systems is that 1:N = N x (1:1)**
 - Rarely the case in practice
 - Easy to model and can provides good ‘back of envelope’ estimations for simple (small) ID systems
- **Latency \approx N x 1:1 latency**
- **Throughput \approx 1/Latency**
- **System size estimated by:**
 - Number of CPU cores directly calculated from throughput or latency
 - Amount of RAM required calculated from template size
- **Accuracy modeling previously presented (BSYM06)**

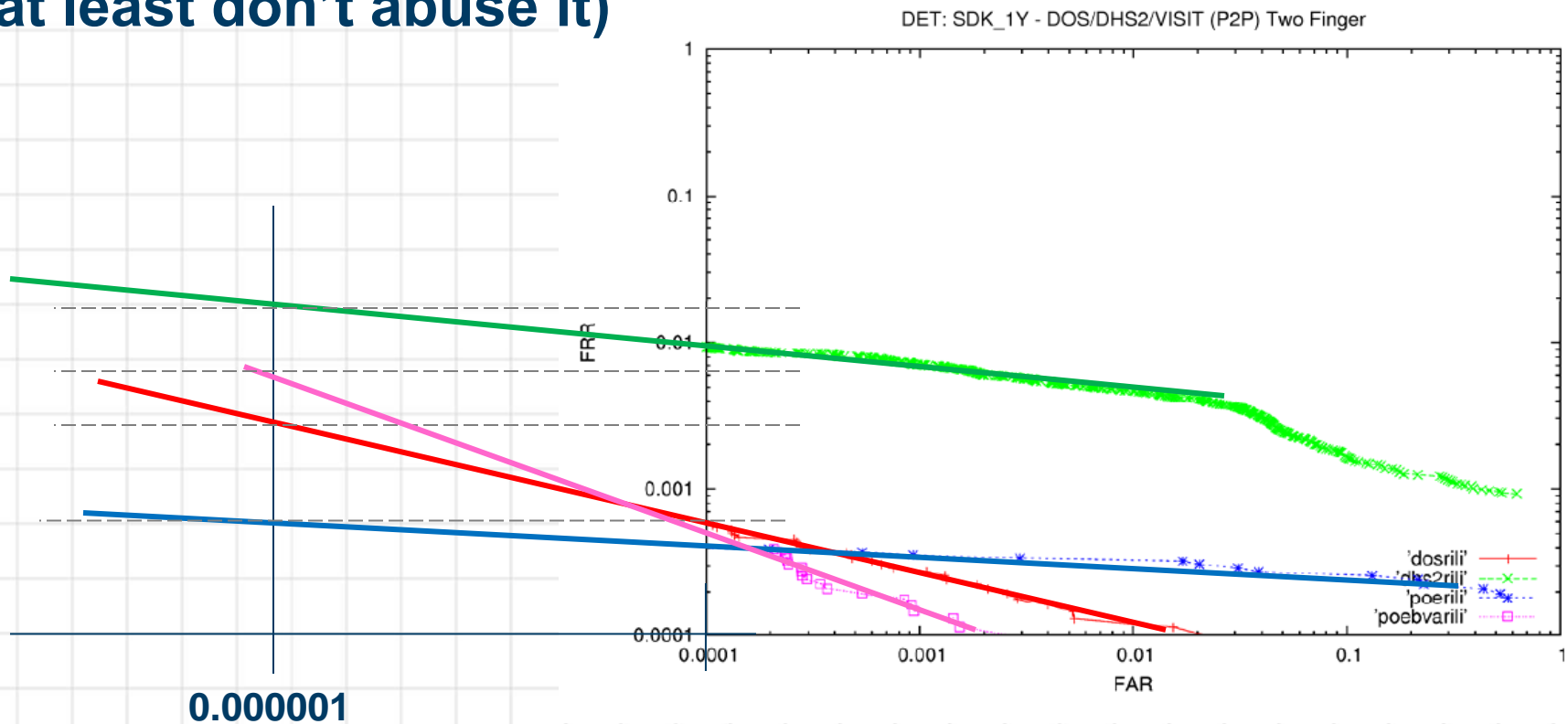
Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1)

- The 1:1 ROC curve can be used to estimate the CMC and alarm curves



Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1)

- Avoid this very tempting technique... !
(at least don't abuse it)

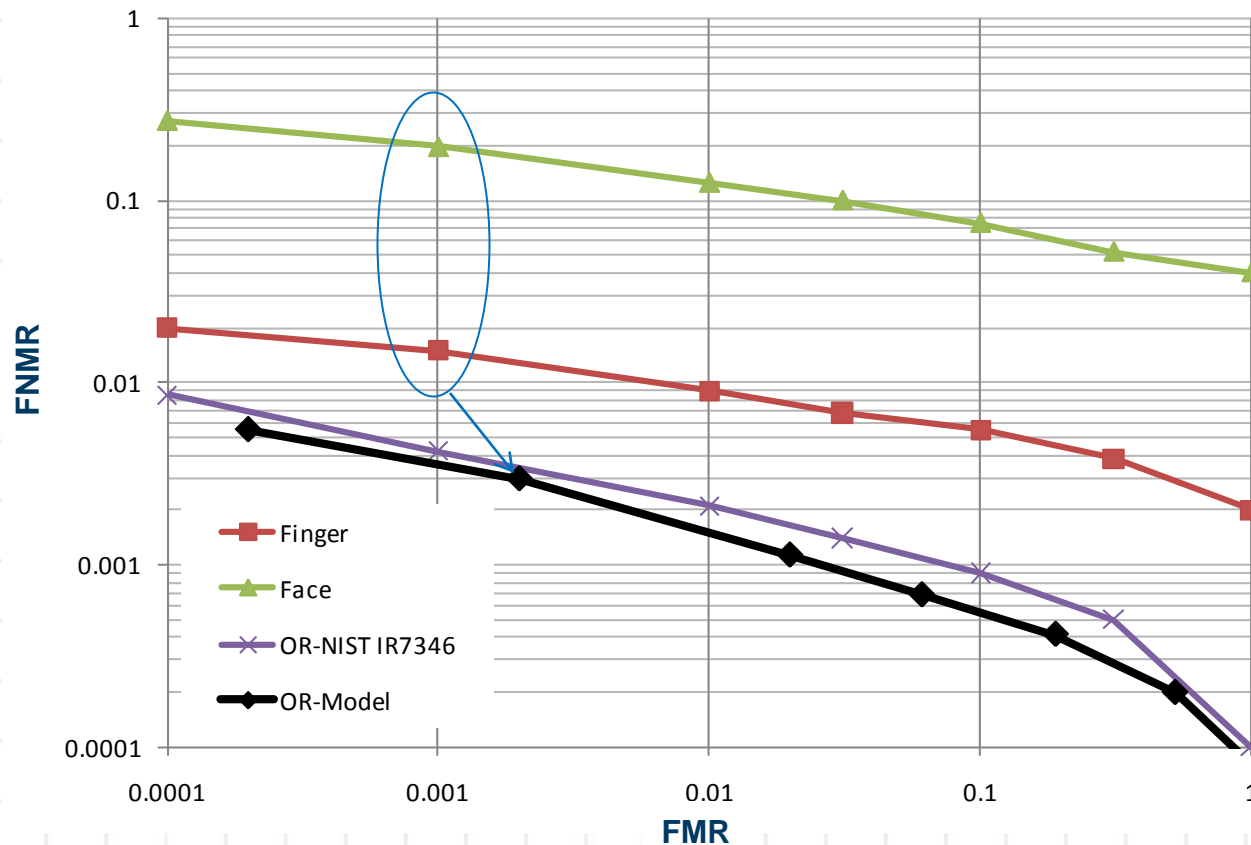


Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1) FUSION

- The ROC can also be used to model multi-modal fusion
 - Needed: 2 ROC curves of uncorrelated biometrics and a calculator
- This result of OR rule fusion is easy to derive
 - At each operating point, there are 2 scores S_1 and S_2
 - Chance the person is rejected is the probability of both scores being below the threshold (sum the probabilities of independent events)
 - $FNMR_{1|2} = (FNMR_1) \times (FNMR_2)$
 - The person is falsely matched when $S_1 > T$ or $S_2 > T$ or when S_1 and S_2 are BOTH $> T$. This is 1 minus probability that the person is correctly rejected. This happens when BOTH S_1 and S_2 are correctly rejected. Again this is the sum of probabilities of independent events.
 - $FMR_{1|2} = 1 - (TNMR_1) \times (TNMR_2) = 1 - (1 - FMR_1) \times (1 - FMR_2)$
 - At low FMRs, $FMR_{1|2} \approx FMR_1 + FMR_2$

Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1) FUSION

- Example from NIST IR-7346 fusion study.
- Face and Finger fusion compared to score based result:

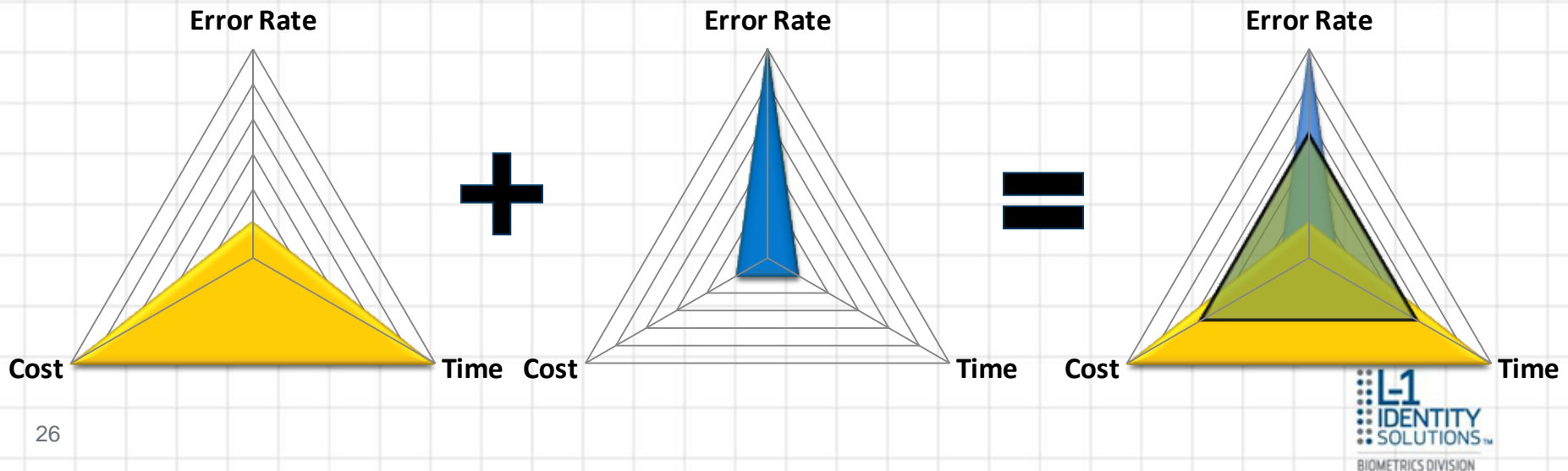


Model: 1-to-N = N x (1-to-1)

- **Where does this model based on 1-to-1 matching breakdown?**
 - **Timing**
 - Scaling behavior not clear
 - One-time latencies
 - Threading efficiency
 - Scoring overhead
 - **Accuracy**
 - When gallery normalization is used
 - When multiple matchers are used selectively
- **The simple model doesn't handle advanced matching approaches which better scale to large DB sizes.**
- **The next model shows why things aren't so simple.**

Model: 1-to-N

- One main issue with the previous model is the assumption that the a single 1:1 match event is repeated for 1:N search. This is typically not true for large scale, or high throughput systems.
- Most modern biometric identification systems employ a multi-stage matching approach for improving speed – this breaks our simple model

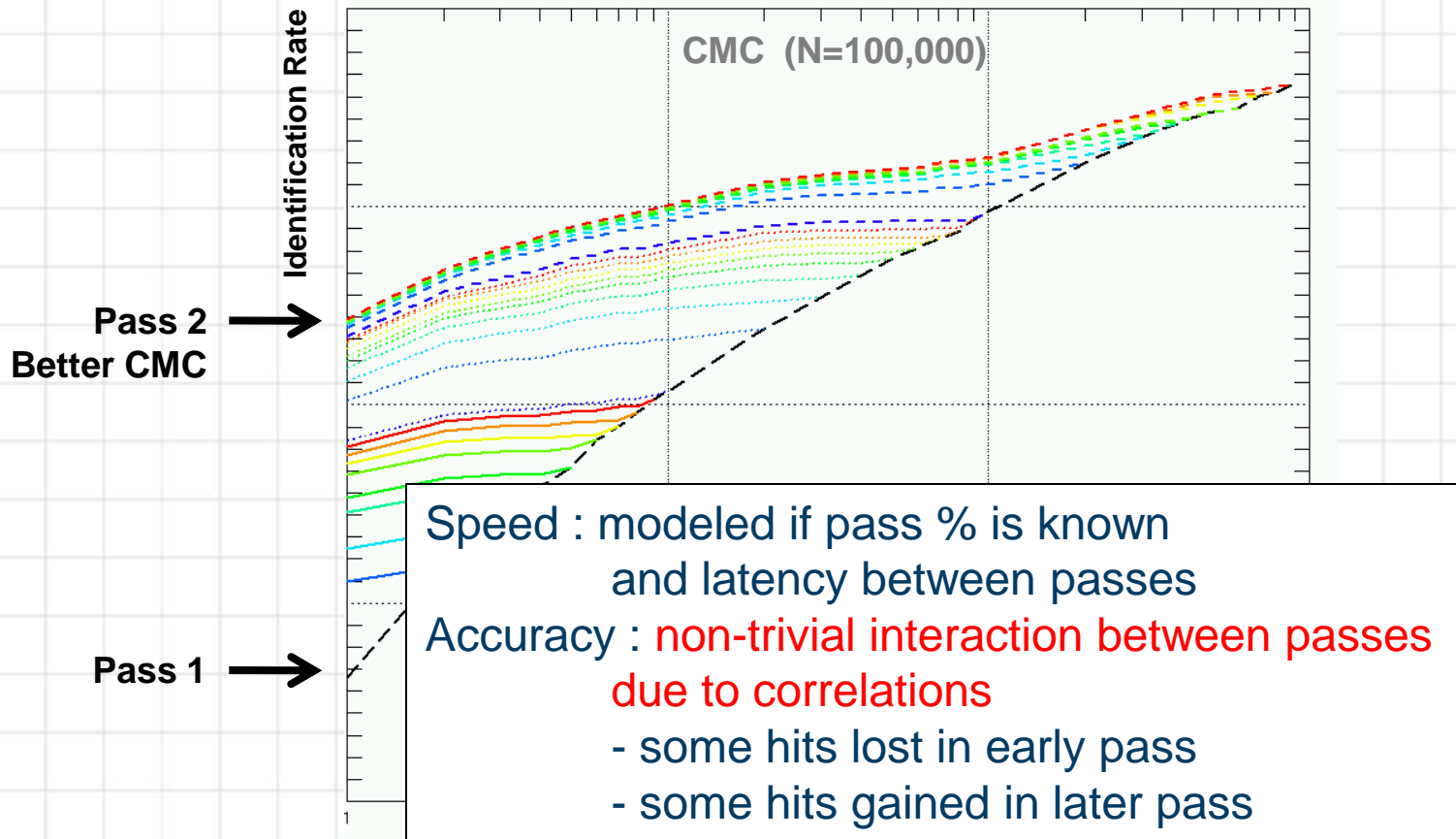


Model: 1-to-N

- **Multi-stage matching breaks the Nx1-to-1 model**
- **Two examples of multi-stage matching**
 1. **Incremental**
 - On each match attempt, effort depends on
 - Sample quality
 - Preliminary evaluation of the likelihood of match
 2. **Multi-pass**
 - Rank or filter all matches, apply additional matching effort on most promising candidates
 - Good for combining very different matching approaches including filtering and multi-modal
 - A cascade of the previous Nx(1:1) model

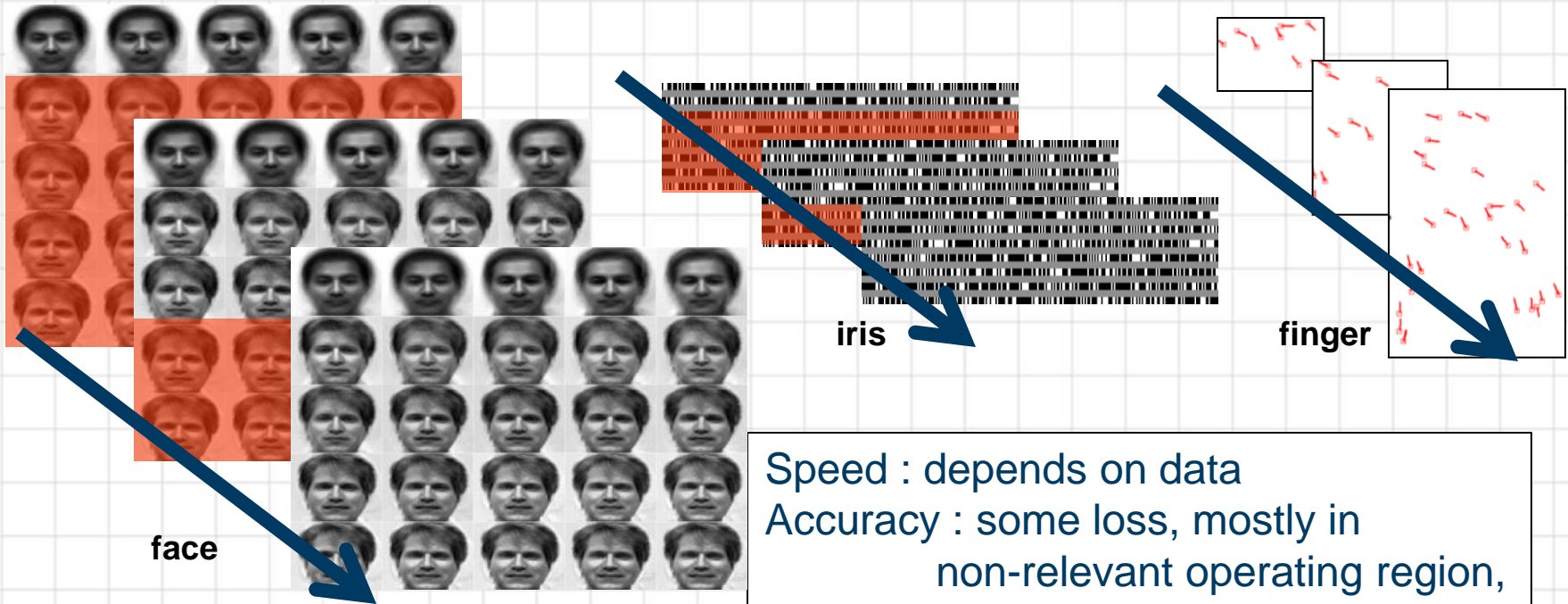
Multi-Pass Matching

- Two pass face identification system



Incremental Matching

- **Increase intensity of matching as needed**
 - Increment amount of data examined (minutiae, iris code bits, Eigen face coefficients, etc...)
 - Incremental algorithmic intensity



Speed : depends on data
Accuracy : some loss, mostly in
non-relevant operating region,
not trivial to model

Face image from www.cs.princeton.edu/~cdecora/eigenfaces

Multi-Stage Matching

- **Unfortunately there is no good generalized ‘black-box’ or ‘gray box’ model**
 - Matching speed for large systems not easily predictable
 - Accuracy on different data not easily predictable
- **Therefore, one needs some understanding of how the system works for relatively accurate modeling of larger systems**
 - Also requires empirical measurements for several parts of the system separately from the whole system

Other Considerations to Keep in Mind

- **Search engine architecture matters**
 - The models presented here do not take into account the **workload distribution over several match servers**
 - Synchronizing, collation of results, etc..
 - How does architecture scale matchers?
 - Divide and conquer – per thread, per machine?
 - Parallel search – how many at once? Efficiency?
 - **System overhead can overwhelm individual matcher timing**

Take Home Messages

- **Performance testing of a biometric search engine is multi-faceted, not just accuracy**
- **We can use simple 1:1 measurements to get very rough estimates for small biometric ID systems**
 - In general, everything is much more complicated though
- **Use caution when trying to extending lab testing results to other (larger) system requirements**
 - Please don't assume anything – talk to vendors about how their system scales if needed

Thank You

bmartin@L1ID.com